

Long Term Services and Supports HCBS Rate Study Methodology Workgroup Meeting Agenda

June 29, 2023
8:30 AM (Central) – 10:30 AM (Central)

Agenda

1. Welcome

Claire Payne with Guidehouse (GH) welcomed attendees to the meeting, presented the agenda for the meeting and facilitated introductions for all participants and consultants on the call. GH set expectations for the workgroup while providing background on participant selection and group aims.

2. Communications Goals and Objectives

GH discussed the workgroup's approach to information sharing and engaging with diverse perspectives to meaningfully inform the study via participants' on-the-ground experiences.

GH emphasized its approach to independently consider all perspectives throughout the rate methodology study process and offer transparency on study methods and findings.

3. Scope of the Project

GH discussed the purpose of the rate study as it pertains to key deliverables like rate models, fiscal impact, and the final report.

GH outlined key areas in which the workgroup is intended to increase communal understanding of functional components of service delivery like occupancy patterns, billable time, funding sources, and competitive benefit packages.

4. Guidehouse Approach to Rate-Building

GH outlined the assumptions built into its rate-building models as the foundation for the survey's elements.

GH expanded on the value of the participants' input in helping to inform important assumptions around wages, employment types, etc.

GH shared examples of data sources commonly used for rate studies to build independent rates for each program as appropriate

GH shared plans for peer state comparison research as another helpful component in rate setting.

5. Provider Cost and Wage Survey

GH informed the group of the purpose of the cost and wage survey and the proposed key deliverables that will be presented throughout the process.

GH walked through 6 areas of measurement that support the data provided in the survey and add more context.

GH shared the survey's 7 topic areas while informing the workgroup of their role in helping alter survey elements based on their read and understanding of the survey's questions and topics.

GD showed screenshots of example wage and service delivery questions to help participants understand the survey's format.

GH asked for feedback on the information presented thus far:

- Attendee: SD is also undergoing a study examining the care gaps for rural communities in treating their elderly members. Looking to see if this rate study can be used to inform some of this other study. Hoping for additional information to be included in the survey on that.
- Attendee: Looking at methodology and data from surrounding states to help build what should be brought into rate considerations and presenting other options to address our goals to the legislature. Looking for a methodology that is logical and sensible to be held for years and potentially replicated.
- GH: Don't want to just replicate previous approaches to perpetuate an underfunded cycle. As such, national reports and peer state rates and practices are built into the study
- GH: Gaps identified are likely to be broadly connected to the same challenges identified in our rate study. We hope to do as much as possible to ensure that the rural health study and this rate study are aligned for a seamless transfer of information. Normally we have topics come up where services are identified as needed but not provided or in need of enhancements.
- Attendee: When you discussed capturing costs related to consulting staff, does that include costs related to staffing agencies?
- GH: Careful about not bringing in too much staff to control costs for the study. We have been looking at the cost of agency staff in rates and how much they're contributing across the country, so we do plan to do that here as well and consider its impact.
- Attendee: It's important to understand the structure of the some of the agencies to contextualize the cost reports and what they are implying regarding costs for services

6. Proposed Survey and Advisory Workgroup Timeline

GH presented the 7 key dates for survey development, release, and results review.

GH requested feedback on the survey to be provided by July 17th to turn around the survey and get it out in accordance with state timelines for budgetary sessions.

GH will be available in about 2 weeks to answer questions about the survey and ensure smooth completion by participants.

GH shared the 5 dates for workgroup meetings through the targeted November 8th meeting on the final rate discussions and fiscal impact analysis

- Attendee: For those in the specific stakeholder group meetings, you will receive an invite. If anyone not automatically included would like to be a part of an additional meeting, please reach out to Heather Krzmarzick to be added.

7. Adjournment @ 9:50 AM (Central)

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